

Aerospace Medical Association

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October 28, 1969

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Report of the International Activities Committee

TO: The President and Executive Council Members of the Aerospace Medical Association

A. General Statement

1. Under the capable and energetic leadership of the former IAC Chairman Frank Voris, the Committee enjoyed notable success in organizing the participation of the visiting Soviet Space biomedical delegation to the May 1969 Annual Scientific Meeting in San Francisco, California. Careful preplanning between the IAC and the Soviets with Boris Mandrovsky acting in his usual excellent stead as an interpreter and Soviet tour guide led to an optimal exploitation of the opportunity of the USA and USSR space medical workers to exchange views on current problem areas of mutual interest. The formal presentations by the Soviets were excellently handled by Boris Mandrovsky and his co-worker Christopher Dodge. Three informal sessions were arranged through mutual agreement between the two groups which resulted in very timely and useful discussions covering the important areas of Life Support Systems, Radiobiologic Hazards and general bioastronautic results to date and future problems. Both the USA and USSR attendees at these informal sessions complimented the IAC on the organization and content of these conferences.

2. During the course of the Annual Meeting, President Charles Berry and Federal Air Surgeon Peter Siegel had an opportunity at an informal luncheon to discuss the topic of closer cooperation and more expeditious exchange of scientific and technical information with Prof. Oleg Gazenko, Chief of the Soviet delegation. Mutual agreements were reached on the many advantages to be gained from renewed efforts on both sides to work through the proper higher level authorities toward

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achieving an effective, responsive and expeditious exchange program. Specific areas such as Orbital Space Stations, Planetary Exploration and Human Factors in Supersonic Transport Operations were cited as well-deserving of this type of bi-lateral participation. Plans were made to follow-up these proposals with further meetings between specific representatives from both parties on the occasion of future international meetings.

3. In making his appointments for membership on the 1969-70 International Activities Committee, President Berry emphasized that he wanted the individual members to actively participate and contribute to the IAC program on a continuing basis rather than look upon their duties as consisting solely of assisting at the Annual Scientific Meetings. He further chose as committee members those individuals who are currently active on the International Aerospace Medical front, all of which has resulted in excellent support to this current Chairman. The response of all members to this charge by the President has been outstanding and the Chairman herewith desires to express his great and sincere appreciation for their efforts.

B. Resume of Activities through Period May-October 1969

1. The XVIIIth International Congress of Aerospace Medicine organized under the auspices of the Netherlands Aeromedical Society was actively supported during its planning and execution by the IAC and the Association at large. In the memory of this writer, this Congress held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 15-18 September 1969, has easily surpassed all previous international aerospace medical meetings on virtually every count; scope and content of the scientific program, procedural organization, facilities, social affairs and sight-seeing opportunities. General Edvard de Vries, President of the Organizing Committee along with Dr. K. Vaandrager, Vice President of the Congress, set a new standard of excellence for such international affairs and rightly deserve the sincere commendations tendered them by all hands at the closing ceremonies. Our President, Charles Berry, had star billing at the Congress and, as usual, turned in a great performance, reflecting considerable credit upon the Association as well as NASA and himself. More detailed reports on this Congress will be submitted to the Association by the Chairman, IAC who had the distinct honor of being the official ASMA representative to this fine meeting.

2. President Charles Berry and IAC member William M. Helvey, M.D. received official invitations from the Academy of Sciences USSR to visit the Soviet Union, present a series of Bioastronautics papers, participate in conferences and visit selected Institutes engaged in aerospace medical research. Dr. Helvey completed his official visit the first two weeks in September, returning to Amsterdam in time to confer with the Chairman IAC and Dr. Berry prior to the latter's departure for Moscow on 22 September 69. The Association is indeed fortunate in being represented in the Soviet Union by two such highly qualified experts in the field of Aerospace Medicine. Informal reports from Drs. Berry and Helvey indicate a most successful and fruitful official visit without Soviet colleagues.

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3. A Conference on Orbiting International Laboratories was organized, managed and chaired by Col. John P. Stapp with Dr. S. Fred Singer as his Vice Chairman, at Cloudcroft, New Mexico, from 28 September to 2 October 69. IAC member Harald von Beckh co-chaired the Life Sciences session along with Prof. Oleg Gazenko of the USSR, and from all reports this conference justly merited all of the many commendations which Chairman Stapp and his organizing Committee received. A well-selected and timely series of scientific papers were presented by members of the USSR delegation as well as such ASMA members as Hans Clamman, Elliot Finkelstein, Ulrich Luft, Hennig von Gierke and Majors Mattson and Stinson from Holloman AFB. Member Tom Nevisson of the Lovelace Foundation chaired a most interesting panel discussion on bioastronautic factors in orbiting laboratories. The IAC would like herewith to record its own sincere commendation to Chairman John Stapp and his committee for organizing such an excellent, well-timed international space conference.

4. Final reports on the XXth International Astronautical Federation Congress in Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6 - 10 October are not yet in. However, all preliminary reports would indicate that this meeting was also considered a highly successful one by our ASMA member attendees. IAC member Dr. Karl Houghton and Prof. Oleg Gazenko, USSR, in their capacities of Co-Chairmen of the IAF Standing Committee on Bioastronautics were responsible for organizing and chairing two excellent bioastronautics sessions. IAC member, Dr. Paul A. Campbell, distinguished author and international lecturer, was responsible for organizing and chairing the Third Bioastronautics Session which took the form of the 2nd International Space Rescue Symposium. Dr. Campbell organized the International Space Rescue Committee several years ago under the aegis of the International Academy of Astronautics, and as a result of his dynamic leadership plus the strong support on the part of Dr. Stark Draper, President of the IAA, this committee is now recognized as one of the most important on the international space exploration front. Included in this Bioastronautics Session III were two very fine papers - "Decompression and Recompression in Space Rescue" by IAC member Harald von Beckh and "Bioastronautics Considerations in the Apollo Flights" co-authored by Maj. General James Humphreys and Dr. Charles Berry and presented by President Berry. A major event of this XXth IAF Congress was, of course, the presentation of the prestigious Florence and Daniel Guggenheim Award to ASMA President Charles Berry for his outstanding contributions in space medicine as the Director of Medical Research and Operations at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center at Houston, Texas. The Chairman and Members of the IAC join all ASMA members in offering most sincere congratulations to President Berry on this latest and justly deserved international recognition as the outstanding leader in the international field of aerospace medicine...

C. Continuing Activities and Future Plans

1. The International Activities Committee is continuing to seek ways and means by and through which it can better meet its stated responsibility of promoting greater cooperation and timely information exchange in Aerospace Medicine amongst all nations. Among other items under consideration at the present time are:

a. better means of communicating news of significant international aerospace medical events and reports to our members.

b. an improved organization of ASMA international affairs and activities which would provide for continuous, strong support to the Executive Vice President, Merrill Goodwin and the home office on all international aerospace medical matters.

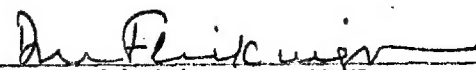
2. The IAC will continue its active support to President Berry and the Council in exploring all avenues leading to a more direct and responsive cooperative liaison with the aerospace medical community in the Soviet Union. However, in addition to this area of exchange, the IAC feels that it is quite timely that we extend the scope of our cooperative and exchange interests into two specific areas, at the same time, for obvious reasons broadening our international approaches to include many additional nations. The two areas considered by the IAC to be of considerable and timely importance in which to expand our efforts are:

a. underseas medicine and related biotechnologies

b. application of aerospace medicine and related biotechnologies to the health and well-being of mankind.

A subsequent report will be submitted to the President and Council members in which both items noted above will be presented and discussed in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted for consideration
and approval


Don Flickinger, M.D.

Chairman, International Activities Committee